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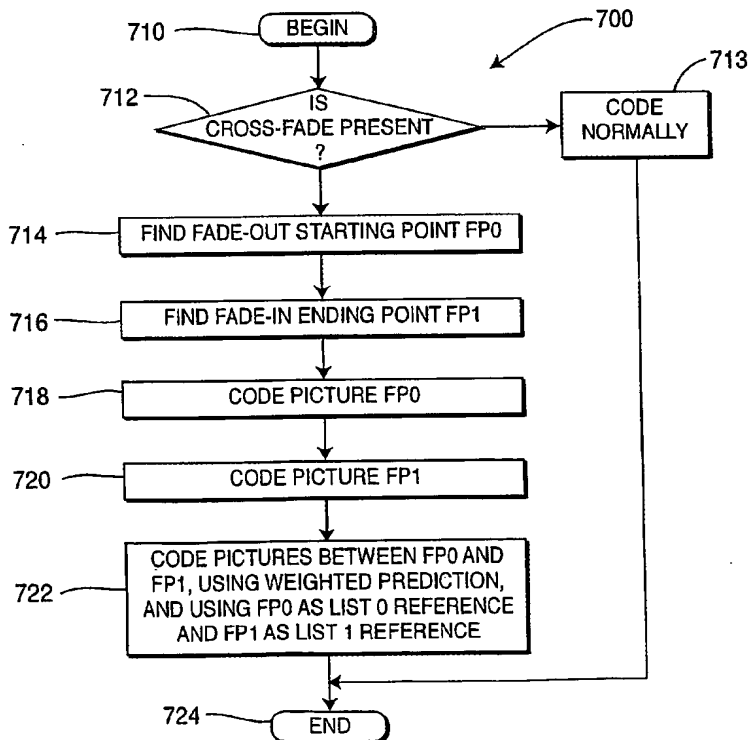
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(54) Title: **ENCODING OF VIDEO CROSS-FADES USING WEIGHTED PREDICTION**



(57) Abstract: A video encoder (200, 300) and method (700) are provided for encoding video signal data for at least one cross-fade picture disposed between a fade-out start picture and a fade-in end picture, where the encoder portion includes a reference picture weighting factor unit (272, 372) for assigning weighting factors corresponding to each of the fade-out start picture and the fade-in end picture, respectively, and the method for encoding cross-fades between pictures includes identifying pictures between which a cross-fade is desired, determining (714,716) appropriate end-points for the cross-fade, and encoding (718,720) the end-points prior to encoding (722) the cross-fade picture.

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